



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It has been proven that quality childcare and  
3 early education for children is critical in determining a  
4 child's future success in school and life; and

5 WHEREAS, There are more than 1.1 million children in  
6 Illinois under the age of five and about 60% or 600,000 of  
7 these children have working parents and are cared for during  
8 the day by another adult; and

9 WHEREAS, It is essential that the State of Illinois take a  
10 leadership role in improving the childcare and early education  
11 options available for Illinois families; and

12 WHEREAS, Early childhood workers and home providers play a  
13 crucial role in providing high-quality experiences for young  
14 children; and

15 WHEREAS, Currently over 55,000 childcare and early  
16 education workers and home providers in Illinois care for over  
17 195,000 low-income children in daycare homes and centers  
18 through the Illinois Childcare Assistance Program; and

19 WHEREAS, These workers and providers provide quality care  
20 to both meet the care and educational needs of young children  
21 and make it possible for approximately 97,000 low-income  
22 families to go to work; and

23 WHEREAS, The average wage for these workers and home  
24 providers is between \$2 and \$8.60 per hour depending on the  
25 care setting, and the majority of these childcare workers and  
26 home providers live below the poverty line; and

27 WHEREAS, The overwhelming majority of workers and home  
28 providers do not receive health coverage nor other benefits;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Turnover rates among these providers and workers  
3 range up to 44% due to the low wages and few benefits; and

4 WHEREAS, Monthly State reimbursements to childcare  
5 providers are frequently delayed by up to four months causing  
6 great hardship; and

7 WHEREAS, Currently the State provides little or no  
8 recognition or reward for training, education, and length of  
9 service for these providers; and

10 WHEREAS, Home child care providers are not currently  
11 permitted to bargain collectively over wages, benefits, and  
12 working conditions; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
14 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
15 will work with the Governor's Office to implement policies  
16 which attempt to achieve the following goals: (1) that all  
17 families have the right to accessible, affordable, quality  
18 childcare; (2) that all children, parents, workers, and  
19 providers who receive and provide child care are treated with  
20 fairness, dignity, and respect; (3) that all home child care  
21 providers and childcare workers have the right to join or form  
22 a union in order to bargain collectively; (4) that all home  
23 child care providers and childcare workers have the right to  
24 earn a living wage and receive benefits such as paid vacation,  
25 sick days, and holidays, affordable health insurance, and a  
26 secure retirement; and (5) that all providers have the right to  
27 be reimbursed by the State in a timely fashion to ensure that  
28 children receive the services they need; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be presented to  
30 Governor Rod Blagojevich and the Illinois Childcare Assistance

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1 Program.